

FRANCE TABOOS TALK OF TOO OLD

Seasoned Veterans, Once Regarded
Fits for Active Service, Upset
Such Theories By Bravery.

French front — (Correspondence.) — When heroism is concerned there is no question of being "too old at 40" in the French army. This has been demonstrated time and again among the veteran regiments of the territorial army of France—the second reserve, the youngest of whose men when they were called to the colors in August 1914, had attained the age of 34, while the remainder ranged between that age and 41. Many of them, especially among the younger classes, have since been transferred at their own request into the ranks of the active army, thus making the average age of these regiments much higher, while three years have been added to the age of all the men since they first put on their uniforms at their country's call "to arms."

These territorial regiments, like their older comrades of the territorial army reserve—the third line—were not at the beginning of hostilities expected to go into the firing line with the younger soldiers of the active army and its first reserves. Since that time many things have changed and they have fought shoulder to shoulder with their more youthful comrades and have proved themselves still to possess sterling qualities as warriors.

The record of one of these regiments, entirely composed of men from Brittany, will serve to demonstrate how great is the part these soldiers of mature age have taken in the task of repelling the invader. In spite of the natural supposition that they had passed the period of enthusiasm for deeds of valor.

This regiment was mobilized together with the rest of the French troops of the active army left to meet the invading Germans crossing neutral Belgium, this Breton territorial regiment was sent from its depots at Rennes and Saint-Malo to organize, garrison and possibly defend one of the sections of the entrenched camp encircling Paris. Four months it spent there digging trenches, fixing barbed wire entanglements, erecting gun emplacements and doing all the arduous labor connected with the establishment of strong military works.

When the Germans had been driven back in the battle of the Marne, they were placed in charge of a front line sector in the northeast of Rheims. Here they stayed for 15 months, constantly harassed by the enemy while they dug a great system of trenches both of defense and communication, built blockhouses and concrete machine-gun positions, excavated rifle and grenade pits and generally organized the position.

The greatest task of the soldierly qualities of these tough old warriors came when they were transferred to Auberville in March this year. They were attached to the famous fighting foreign legion and their duty was to do the pick and spade work and keep the legionaries supplied with ammunition and food during the French offensive which began on April 17, and at the same time to hold a line of trenches. When the legion went forward on its victorious attack the Breton territorialists were ordered to follow them up and extend the communication trenches and tracks across the conquered territory. They were not content with simply doing this very perilous work always under fire. They also took part by the side of the legionaries in the capture of Auberville, and a section of territorial grenadiers played a glorious role in the reduction of the small field fort of Vaudecourt.

Meeting a couple of these Bretons coming back with a batch of German prisoners, a French staff officer inquired of them where they had taken the captives and where they were going and received only a broad smile in reply. He was astonished at this apparent lack of discipline and was about to remonstrate when a German prisoner stepped forward and said: "Excuse me, sir, but these men do not speak French. They are Bretons." He gave the officer the information asked for and the convoy marched on.

This is not at all surprising, for although all Frenchmen learn French in school, the Bretons soon lose the habit of speaking it, as they at all times speak their Celtic tongue among themselves. This is a close approach to Welsh and has no relation whatever to French.

Their gallant deeds at Auberville brought the old territorialists mention in dispatches along with the foreign legion, while many of the officers and men were decorated on the field of battle, including one of the Bretons, who, although 52 years old, has been in command of his battalion ever since war was declared and has undergone with his men all the fatigues and hardships inseparable from fighting in the front line.

A word must also be said for the officers and men of the territorial army reserve. These men when called up in 1914 ranged in age from 41 to 48, and they have been engaged ever since in the trying work of organizing the roadways behind the immediate line of battle and even sometimes of constructing communication trenches and tracks under heavy fire as their younger comrades advanced. The Associated Press correspondent has seen them at work at all parts of the line, and can vouch for the fact that they never flinch from any task set them. They ply their picks and spades under heavy shrapnel fire as though they were working in their fields and orchards at home without a murmur and without hope of gaining distinction or decoration. Their only thought is that they are helping their comrades to free France of the barbarous invader.

HOLLAND INTERNS GERMAN AVIATORS

Flushing, Holland, Aug. 5.—A German seaplane stopped a Dutch fishing boat near Westkapelle. One of the aviators went aboard and ordered the boat to Zebruggse. While still in territorial waters a Dutch patrol vessel met and brought the boat to Flushing. The German aviators were interned.

KILLED HUSBAND FOR BABY'S SAKE, SAYS WIDOW OF JACK DE SAULLES



(c) Underwood & Underwood.
Mrs. Bianca De Saulles and little Jack De Saulles, Jr.

Mrs. Bianca De Saulles, Chilean beauty who married Jack De Saulles, Yale athlete and society man, and then killed him for the possession of her four and one-half year old boy, after the pair had been divorced, will make a hard fight for her freedom. She charges that her husband often took the boy into debauching society, and that she feared De Saulles, by reason of his money and prominent connections, would eventually get permanent control of the boy.

One reason for her husband's cold treatment of her, she says, was the fact that she failed to inherit as much money as he had expected she would when he married her. She divorced him last year, naming a prominent dancer and movie actress.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE TOLD STORY OF OLD GLORY OFTEN

Rock Island, Aug. 7.—Editor The Argus: June 14, 1777, the continental congress passed the resolution that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

Old Glory led our armies to all their victories. It floated over them in the revolutionary war; the war of 1812; the Mexican war; the civil war and the Spanish-American war.

Our mission was raised over Alaska, Nov. 8, 1867, and since 1898 it has been floating over the Philippines, Porto Rico and the Hawaiian Islands.

The flag symbolizes so much to every one on American soil that it should be forever before our eyes, and the children should be taught to revere it as a sacred thing. They should be told of the valor and deeds of revolutionary heroes, written on every tattered fold, of the days of toil and privation, of sickness and wounds, bloodshed and carnage, which are behind the wind-torn stripes of loved ones in stormy days of the civil war who went out to the strength of young manhood, full of hope and loyalty, of the many who returned broken in health and body, or of the many more who laid down their lives a willing sacrifice on the altar of their country's name. "It is sweet to die for one's country." All this, and more, can be read in each radiant star. Tell it to the children, mothers and teachers, that they may so love the flag and all it symbolizes that dishonor can ever come to it, and the day will soon dawn when "Old Glory" shall float over every school house, from Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the northern boundary of Alaska to our southernmost possessions.

"O folds of white and scarlet! O blue field with your silver stars! may fond eyes welcome you, willing feet follow you, warm hearts cherish you, and dying lips give you their blessing! Ours by inheritance, ours by allegiance, ours by affection, long may you float on the free winds of heaven, the emblem of liberty, the hope of the world!"

GERTRUDE WYNN,
Press Correspondent, Daughters of Veterans.

Fraternal

The regular meeting of St. Paul lodge, No. 107, Knights of Pythias, will be held this evening at the R. O. of M. hall. Meeting nights have been changed from the second and fourth Fridays to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Only routine business was transacted at the stated meeting of Rock Island chapter, No. 18, Royal Arch Masons, held last evening at Masonic temple.

Elaborate plans are being made for the Rock Island county Masonic picnic which is to be held on Labor day at Woodward's grove, Port Byron, A.

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ODD FELLOWS TO MAKE WAR PLANS

Provision for Care of Members Who
Go to Front to Be Taken Up
at Grand Lodge.

Louisville, Ky.—Provision for the care of members of the order who may be injured at the front after the American army lands in France, and the care and maintenance of their dependents at home will engage the attention of the sovereign grand lodge at its annual convention in Louisville next September, according to a statement of Grand Sire Frank C. Goudy of Denver, issued through the local committee on arrangements.

"Never in the history of the order," the statement recites, "was there so much depending upon the assembling of American and Canadian Odd Fellowship in annual convention. In addition to transacting the ordinary business that will come before the sovereign grand lodge, there will be a large volume of work to be done by our order, acting in cooperation with the Red Cross and like associations in furnishing relief to all who may be subjected to the horrors of this war. The fact that Odd Fellows will soon go to the front in protection of home and of civil and religious liberty, makes it our highest duty to provide for them when injured in battle, failing in health or otherwise requiring the fraternal and helpful care of our fraternity. The protection of our widows and orphans at this time is more essential than ever, so the duties devolving upon us relatively are greater."

In view of existing conditions it is most imperative that the sovereign grand lodge meet this year for legislation on important matters that will confront us. Over \$500,000 was contributed to the relief of brethren during the past year and with the world's calamity forced upon America the support to be extended during the war will run into great figures.

In view of the fact that transportation companies will not be largely occupied in handling troops, war material and supplies in the early part of October, when the cantonments will open, the sovereign grand lodge will hold its session at Louisville, Ky., Sept. 17-22, as originally scheduled.

lecture will be music which will be furnished by the 60 piece grotto band of Davenport. A special Milwaukee train will run from this city to the grounds for the convenience of the visitors.

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